CLAIMS

1. A composition for topical application for extemporaneous preparation, comprising ascorbic acid and a suitable support, the ascorbic acid being obtained by bringing at least one ascorbic acid precursor with the exception of ascorbic acid esters into contact with at least one enzyme that is capable of converting said precursor.

2. The composition of claim 1, wherein said ascorbic acid precursor comprises at least one substrate.

3. The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one ascorbic acid precursor is selected from chemical or biological precursors of ascorbic acid.

4. The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one precursor is selected from L-galactono-1,4-lactone, L-gulono-1,4-lactone, D-glucorono-1,4-lactone, D-glucuronic acid, D-mannose, D-galacturonic acid, D-glucose, D-galactose, L-galactose or mixtures thereof.

5. The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one precursor is L-galactono-1,4-lactone.

6. The composition of claim 1, wherein at least one enzyme is selected from L-galactono-1,4-lactone dehydrogenase, L-galactose dehydrogenase, L-sorbosone dehydrogenase, L-gulono-1,4-lactone oxidase and mixtures thereof.

7. The composition of claim 1, wherein at least one enzyme is L-galactono-1,4-lactone dehydrogenase.

8. The composition of claims 1, wherein said at least one enzyme originates from an extract from plants, animals, insects or from micro-organisms, particularly differentiated or dedifferentiated cells obtained *in vivo* or *in vitro*.

9. The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme and said at least one precursor are packaged separately.

10. The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme and said at least one precursor are packaged in separate compartments.

11. The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme and/or said at least one precursor are in an encapsulated form.

12. The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme and/or said at least one precursor are in the form of microcapsules or microgranules.

13. The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme is in the form of a total extract, a purified enzyme solution, an enzyme immobilised on a matrix, in particular on a sol-gel matrix, in the solid or liquid form, in the liquid or solid freeze-dried form, or included in a controlled release device.

14. The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme is present in a quantity of 0.05% to 30% by weight with respect to the total composition weight.

15. The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme is present in a quantity of 0.1% to 10% by weight with respect to the total composition weight.

16. The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one precursor is present in a quantity of 0.01% to 50% by weight with respect to the total composition weight.

17. The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one precursor is present in a quantity of 0.1% to 10% by weight with respect to the total composition weight.

18. A method of preparing a composition for topical use comprising the steps of (1) separately storing at least one enzyme selected from L-galactono-1,4-lactone dehydrogenase, L-galactose dehydrogenase, L-sorbosone dehydrogenase, L-gulono-1,4-lactone oxidase and mixtures thereof, or of an extract comprising said enzyme, and at least one precursor of ascorbic acid, and (2) putting said at least one enzyme into contact with said at least one precursor, whereby upon contact ascorbic acid is formed.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said enzyme is L-galactono-1,4-lactone dehydrogenase.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein the preparation is extemporaneous.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein the preparation is carried out by bringing the enzyme or plant extract into contact with a substrate.

22. The method of claim 18, wherein said enzyme originates from an extract from plants, animals, insects or from micro-organisms, particularly differentiated or undifferentiated cells obtained *in vivo* or *in vitro*.

23. The method of claim 18 wherein said substrate is selected from L-galactono-1,4-lactone, L-gulono-1,4-lactone, D-glucorono-1,4-lactone, D-glucuronic acid, D-mannose, D-galacturonic acid, D-glucose, D-galactose, L-galactose or mixtures thereof.

24. The method of claim 18, wherein said substrate is L-galactono-1,4-lactone.

25. A method for cosmetic treatment, consisting of applying to the skin a composition for topical application for extemporaneous preparation, comprising ascorbic acid and a suitable support, the ascorbic acid being obtained by bringing at least one ascorbic acid precursor with the exception of ascorbic acid esters into contact with at least one enzyme that is capable of converting said precursor.

26. A method for cosmetic treatment of the skin consisting of applying to the skin, either simultaneously or successively, at least one enzyme that can convert an ascorbic acid precursor into ascorbic acid, and at least one ascorbic acid precursor with the exception of its esters.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein said at least one enzyme is selected from L-galactono-1,4-lactone dehydrogenase, L-galactose dehydrogenase, L-sorbosone dehydrogenase, L-gulono-1,4-lactone oxidase and mixtures thereof.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein said enzyme is L-galactono-1,4-lactone dehydrogenase.

29. The method of claim 26, wherein said precursor is selected from L-galactono-1,4-lactone, L-gulono-1,4-lactone, D-glucorono-1,4-lactone, D-glucuronic acid, D-mannose, D-galacturonic acid, D-glucose, D-galactose, L-galactose and mixtures thereof.

30. The method of claim 26, wherein said precursor is L-galactono-1,4-lactone.